



GOOD ROADS

The Annual Mud Tax.
A careful study of the road problem in detail reveals some important and significant features. While good roads are found in a very few places in this country, good clays are found in nearly every locality.

"If these abundant clays," Mr. Dodge argues, "can be used economically to build good roads they will greatly assist in meeting the important problem of how to construct our country roads."

Again, as all roads are hauled over very narrow portions of roads through wheel contact, railroad cars for example, it follows that if such narrow parts of our roads are cheaply constructed to properly resist the weight and grind of the wagon-wheels, new and important results will be attained.

At a cost of construction of say \$300 a mile, brick track roads for the entire country would cost less than four times the \$500,000,000 loss which is estimated we are now sustaining each year on account of our bad roads.

In other words, we are now paying for the pleasure of using our present deplorable roads an annual mud tax which in less than four years would build the finest and best roads in the world throughout the entire country, and which would effect a saving of nearly \$7 each year for every man, woman and child in this country, to say nothing of the pleasure, the satisfaction and the moral benefits of driving over good hard roads every day of the year instead of through a series of mud holes or a cloud of dust.

To the rapid and economical extension of rural mail delivery only one obstacle worthy of consideration presents itself, but that obstacle is of such a nature as to greatly affect the practicability and economy. This is the present condition of our country roads.

Without question, one of the first great movements toward the economical free rural delivery of the mails should be the construction of passable roads. This is already evident from the fact that some of the mail delivery routes have had to be abandoned on account of bad roads.

The circumstance that over six million dollars was appropriated by our last Congress largely to be buried in our muddy roads in the delivery of our rural mails, while only the small sum of \$20,000 was last year devoted to meeting the road problem, indicates the great need of education regarding the present necessity and demand for vigorous and intelligent road work.

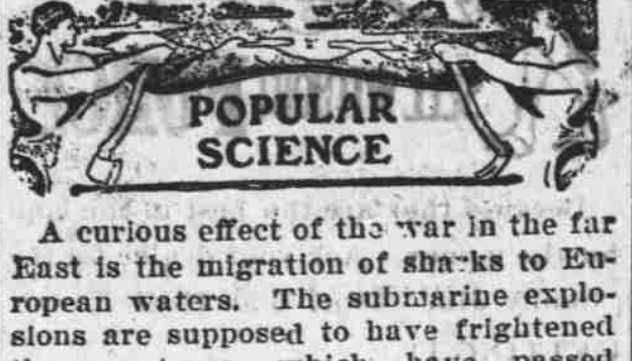
As much of these large appropriations for rural mail delivery could be saved if we had good roads, it is obvious that an amount equal to a considerable portion of these sums could be spent to good advantage in educating the people in the work of improving our country roads and thus forever close a large drain on our national cash box.

In view of these facts, could not a million or more be spent to the best possible advantage by the national government in constructing a section of brick track road near each county seat throughout the country as an object lesson in each county in the most advanced methods of road construction?

Narrow Tires Road Killers.
The town of Plymouth has been in the list of towns that have improved highways under State aid. We have built nearly two miles of macadam road. These sections were put in six or seven years ago, and have proved satisfactory, and at the present time are in good condition. This kind of road needs repairing by top dressing with three-fourth inch trap rock twice a year, and when the roads commence to unravel or pick up they must be repaired at once to prevent serious injury to the roads. Cost of repairs, should say \$40 to \$50 per mile per year. We have also done several miles of grading and graveling during the last two years, greatly improving the highways thus treated. Our gravel section would have done much better service if wide tires had been on heavy wagons; narrow tires on heavy wagons are "road killers," and their use cannot but be most strongly condemned. I fully believe the cost of repairing our highways is thirty per cent. more by reason of narrow and well worn tires on heavy team wagons.—Henry E. Hiaman, Chairman of Selectmen, Terryville, Conn., in Good Roads Magazine.

Nothing More Expensive.
There is nothing more expensive to the farmer or merchant or other business man than impassable roads, which prevent the farmers from marketing their products or from procuring the articles they need in farming operations. The burden of the tax is heavy. The Agricultural Department puts the cost of transporting goods in wagons over Southern dirt roads at \$3.05 per ton, while in the Northeastern States it is but \$1.50 per ton, a difference in favor of good roads of \$1.55 per ton. The weight of the average load in the East is 2216 pounds, whereas the weight of the average load in the South is but 1200 pounds.—Good Roads Magazine.

Indiana in the Van.
It is said that Indiana will be the first State to have complete rural mail delivery, as a result of the law passed by the last Legislature under which counties are required to keep in good repair roads on which rural mail routes have been established.—Good Roads Magazine.



POPULAR SCIENCE

A curious effect of the war in the far East is the migration of sharks to European waters. The submarine explosions are supposed to have frightened the creatures, which have passed through the Suez Canal, and have been making havoc among the fishes of the Adriatic. Invasion of the Black Sea even has been feared.

The pulse register of Dr. Gartner, of Vienna, has proven very successful in lessening the surgeon's work in watching the circulation of patients under anaesthetics. It consists of a watch-like box, which is attached to the patient's forearm, and with hands that are moved over the dial by a sensitive spring, very accurately showing the pulse and blood-pressure vibrations. It even reveals pulse action so feeble that the finger cannot feel it.

The much ridiculed name of "liquid crystals" is still retained by Dr. Otto Lehmann, who has published an enlarged list of the organic compounds having the peculiar properties. These substances, as was first made clear fifteen years ago, have two melting points and at intermediate temperatures move freely like liquids, but polarize light like crystals and show the dichroism of crystals. Whether they are really like solid crystals is still disputed.

In the survey of the Scottish lakes, which is now nearly completed, a depth of 1017 feet has been reached in Loch Morar. This proves to be the deepest lake in the United Kingdom, and, as the surface is but thirty feet above sea level, nearly the entire bed of the lake is below the surface line of the ocean. Only seven deeper lakes are known in Europe, four being in Norway and three in Italy. At a depth of one thousand feet the temperature of Loch Morar is fairly constant throughout the year at about forty-two degrees.

A new way of prospecting has been tried experimentally, and is reaching the point where it is practically useful. The method is based on the differences in the electrical conductivity of the earth due to the presence of ore deposits. Most ores are much better conductors of electricity than the soil and rocks, although some others are almost insulators. In making use of these facts to locate beds of ore two electrodes are grounded about one hundred yards apart. In the circuit is an induction coil with a glass condenser and two spark gaps. The current as it passes through the ground is tested by two telephone receivers connected to portable electrodes which are usually grounded about seventy feet apart. The make and break of the current in passing through the ground is heard in the telephones as ticks. As the electrodes attached to the telephones are moved about, the variations in the intensity of the tapping in the telephones give an indication of the presence and position of the ore deposits. Although the method is not out of the experimental stage, yet it seems to promise much for itself in the future.

Dr. Elliot Was Absentminded.
Once when there was a vacancy in the Massachusetts bishopric Dr. Phillips Brooks was the most likely candidate. The dean of the Theological School in Cambridge, Dr. Lawrence, during the course of a walk with Dr. Elliot of Harvard began a discussion of the situation.

"Don't you think Brooks will be elected?" asked he.

"Well, no," said Dr. Elliot; "a second or third rate man would do just as well. We need Brooks right here in Boston."

Phillips Brooks was elected, and a short time thereafter Dr. Elliot and Dr. Lawrence were again talking of the matter.

"Aren't you glad Brooks was elected?" said the dean.

"Yes, I suppose so," replied the absentminded Elliot, "if he wanted it; but, to tell the truth, Lawrence, you were my man."—Woman's Home Companion.

Doing His Best.
"Yes, we're going to move," she said to the agent. "We simply can't stand it."

"Have patience, madam," he argued. "Patience has ceased to be a virtue," she retorted. "We complained twice of that woman in the flat above us who pounds the piano and sings both day and night, and you said you would get her out. Instead of doing that you have calmly let her put next to her to a man who plays the cornet."

"But that's part of the scheme," he protested. "We put him there on purpose. His instructions are to make so much noise she can't hear herself sing. She has a lease, you know, and the only way to get her out is to discourage her."—Birmingham (Eng.) Post.

The Turkey and the Boll Weevil.
It has been demonstrated that the turkey is a fine destroyer of the boll weevil, the tobacco worm and the tomato worm. They get fat on that sort of diet and keep so with a bit of grain thrown in once in a while and attention to their sleeping quarters. The boll weevil gets busy in the spring, and so do the young turkeys. The tomato worms are about the fields at the time the young birds are most zealous in satisfying an appetite that has no bounds. The boll weevil and the worms go into hibernation in the fall just about the time that there is a demand for fat turkeys that can't be satiated.—Houston Post.

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE

Work That is Being Done By the North Carolina Lawmakers.

In the Senate.
In the Senate Monday a memorial from the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference was read, saying that the present divorce laws seriously threaten the sanctity of marriage and praying for special legislation against anti-scriptural divorce laws, asking for the repeal of all divorce laws enacted since 1883. Bills were passed incorporating the Winston-Salem South-bound Railway and Durham and Carolina Railway. A bill was introduced for registering the names and placing monuments on the graves of deceased Confederate soldiers in every county in North Carolina.

Bills were introduced in the Senate to re-enact divorce acts of 1889, for the prohibition in Scotland Neck township to more clearly define vagrancy; to prevent fraudulent compromises of suits; to procure speedy trials in civil actions; to increase salaries of all judges to \$3,000; to increase the pay of jurors in magistrate's courts from twenty-five cents to fifty cents per day; to give homesteaders right to select tract land other than the first assigned them, should they prefer to make transportation companies issuing receipt for freight responsible in suit or claim for loss or damage; to provide that criminal case shall stand for trial at first term, if summoned and verified if complaints are issued and served thirty days prior to court; to give lawyer appearing on contingent fee lien on judgment.

In the Senate bills were introduced by Mr. Duls covering the building and loan associations; to change time of holding March courts for Rowan and Davidson; to incorporate the Rhodhiss; to incorporate the Granite Falls graded schools, in Caldwell county; to extend corporate limits of Lexington; to provide for the collection of mortgages given in lieu of bonds; to recognize appearance at criminal proceedings; to amend chapter 58, Public Laws of 1893, by bringing Rowan county under its provisions.

In the House bills were introduced to protect landlords and tenants' employers and employees; to increase appropriations for Soldiers' Home; to make it unlawful to sell liquor in five miles of polling place on the day of election; to compel attendance in public schools in Watauga; to provide for the care of idiots and epileptics in separate institutions; to prevent injustice by hastily restraining orders and injunction without notice; to confer upon justices of the peace jurisdiction of offence of unlawfully riding upon railways; to amend the Code by allowing an increase in the number of jurors in Irredell and Rowan; to authorize the removal of action where justices of the peace die or become incapacitated before the final determination of the action; to amend chapter 89, acts of 1901, regarding elections; making it unlawful to sell liquor on election day; to prohibit cities and towns not having 200 qualified voters from selling or manufacturing liquor; was made a special order for January 31st. A bill to prohibit sale and manufacture of liquor in Richmond county to go into effect April 1st was taken up. The time arriving for the special order, the bill to repeal the anti-jug law, it was mutually agreed it should be postponed and made a special order for January 26. Consideration of Richmond county bill was resumed and Mr. Bunton, of Richmond, offered an amendment that the act should go into effect July 1. Mr. Butler offered another striking out Richmond county and inserting "North Carolina, repealing all laws in conflict with." Mr. Murphy, of Buncombe, inquired: "Does the gentleman in that amendment represent his party, the Republican party of the State?" Mr. Butler replied: "I am here representing my county, which is a prohibition county, but I am not making a mistake when I say I can represent the Republican party as taking that step." Great applause.

Mr. Beaman, Republican, of Mitchell, said he would to God the amendment would pass and was satisfied the Republican party in North Carolina was in favor of an honest prohibition law, treating all sections of the State alike. Mr. McNinch said he challenged the Republican party to cite a single instance in which it had not stood up for the whiskey traffic, and if it had undergone any change in the past it was on account of being purified by the Democratic party.

In reply to McNinch, Mr. Butler said he would assure him that the Republican party in North Carolina would endorse the amendment, but he had offered it without consultation with a single soul, but in absolute good faith. The question came up first on Mr. Butler's amendment. The roll-call was demanded, as the amendment was defeated 9 yeas 21 nays. The amendment giving those who had been granted license until July 1 in which to prepare for closing out their business, was adopted. It passed final reading, only one no being heard, that of Warburton.

The Democrats will caucus Tuesday night on liquor legislation. The bill passed final reading to regulate the sale of corn meal and fixed the standard weight of bushel of corn meal, whether bolted or unbolted, shall be 48 pounds. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to pack for sale, sell or offer for sale, any meal except in bags, or packages containing by standard weight two bushels, one bushel, half bushel, fourth bushel or eighth bushel. Each bag or package shall have plainly printed or marked amount it contains and weight. This does not apply to retailing of meal direct to customers from bulk stock when priced and delivered by actual weight or measure.

The House of Representatives Saturday passed the bill providing prohibition for Scotland Neck, the clause extending prohibition to limits of eight miles around the town being stricken out.

There was an extended argument on the bill making it only a misdemeanor to take a horse from an owner for any temporary use, strong opposition against its reference to the judiciary committee. A bill that was intended to authorize the waiving of homestead by note was tabled; also a bill to change the time of meeting

of the General Assembly from January to April.

The bill to authorize courts to consider the title of an act a part thereof of passed. This is a substitute for a bill that was introduced imposing a heavy penalty for smuggling a deceptively entitled bill through the Legislature.

Mr. Cox, of Perquimans, introduced a bill to provide local self-government for Perquimans county. Mr. Murphy one to authorize street railway companies in North Carolina to give free transportation to policemen and members of fire companies.

The House committee on expenditures made a report recommending that the number of pages be reduced from fourteen to twelve and other employees from twenty-six to twenty-two.

A bill passed the House to regulate vehicles on the highways of Mecklenburg by requiring that all vehicles shall go to the right and that when a driver of a team raises the right hand, automobiles, etc., shall stop until the teams are driven past. Mr. Freeman was the introducer of this bill.

A bill passed fixing the punishment for carrying concealed weapons at \$20 fine for the first offense, and \$30 and 10 days for the second.

Monday's Proceedings.
Both the Senate and House had a very short session. Bills were introduced in the Senate amending the negotiable instrument law; to reduce passenger fares to three cents per mile and abolish second-class fares; to cure defective orders on registration of deeds; regulating manufacture and sales of liquor in the State; amending the Watts law by striking out the words "manufacture" in the first section, and by adding to that section the following words: "It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm, or corporation, to manufacture or rectify for gain any spirituous, vinous or malt liquors, or intoxicating bitters within this State except in incorporated cities having more than 1,500 population, wherein the manufacture is not or may not hereafter be prohibited by law or regulated by special statute. It further proposes to amend the Watts law by allowing liquor to be furnished by drug stores upon written certificates of head of family that it is needed for use by some member of the family for medicinal purposes.

Bills passed incorporating Troutman; authorizing a bond issue and poll-tax reduction at Mooresville; to authorize townships in Forsyth county to issue bonds for electric railway from High Point to Winston-Salem.

A memorial was presented to the House from the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference asking for the repeal of the present divorce laws. Bills were introduced to prohibit bucket shops; to regulate the sale of patent medicines containing alcohol, opium and cocaine; to regulate the sale of cider in the State; to encourage purity in art; to apply the Watts law to Jackson county.

Bills passed amending the charter of the Statesville and Air Line Railway and increasing the pay of jurors in magistrate's courts from twenty-five cents to fifty cents per day. Chairman Mitchell, of the House committee on expenditures, called attention to the law requiring all State officers and heads of institutions to furnish the Legislature detailed lists of all employees, names and salaries, saying that it ought to be enforced or repealed; that the institutions asked for half a million dollars additional appropriation and this information was desired. The bill regarding purity in art is introduced at the instance of the ladies of the State, who want purity in newspaper advertisements.

RAM'S HORN BLASTS
THE idle invite iniquity.
Love lightens all labor.
Faith cannot be forced.
Quality makes quantity.
The laggards lead back.
The finest fruits must be touched by frost.
Men who live in revelry get no revelations.
You cannot lift the world until you love it.
Eyes of love always see something to praise.
Real consecration is a quick cure for conceit.
The long on tongue are often short on sympathy.
Evil imagination is a long step towards evil action.
There is always hope for the man who honors his mother.
God honors us for our service, not for our number of servants.
Sharpeners end by cutting a very poor figure.
Substitution of the best is the best cure for the bad.
A creed is like a plate, to hold food, but not to be eaten.
Some people have family reasons for not fighting the devil.
What is in a man is more potent than what is about him.

Awful Deed of Ignorant Peasants.
A grotesque story of superstition comes from the Transylvania village of Renschor, which this year has suffered severely from drought. A whisper getting abroad that this was due to the spell cast over the place by a late resident named Bortas, who had been dead several weeks, the inhabitants, acting on the advice of the soothsayer of a neighboring village, exhumed the body at midnight and, with many incantations, hurled the body from one to another on pitchforks, at the same time violently restraining from intervention the son of Bortas, who besought them to desist. All concerned in the outrage have been arrested, and this time an example is to be made.—London Globe.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS

The Senate and House Regularly at Work—What They are Doing.

Still Examining Smoot.
The Senate investigation into the protests against Senator Reed Smoot will be brought to a close this week. The cross-examination of the respondent terminated earlier than expected and several other witnesses for the defense were examined. It was the judgment of the committee on elections and privileges that only a few more witnesses would be put on the stand, and except for some documentary evidence, the investigation may conclude in a day or two.

The cross-examination of Senator Smoot resulted in an absolute refusal to testify in regard to the Endowment ceremonies. He also asserted that it was not his business to call to account President Smith, of the Mormon Church, because of the fact that Smith admitted to the committee that he was living in violation of the laws of the land. Three other witnesses refused to tell the committee the character of the Endowment ceremonies.

After testifying that President Smith was supreme as head of the Mormon Church, Senator Smoot was asked: "Do you think the President of the Church communicates directly with God—has direct revelation?"

"If God desires to speak to his people, it would be through the President of the Church."

In answering a question as to his belief in modern prophecy, Senator Smoot said: "Men speaking today under the inspiration of the Lord—their counsel is just as good as that of the prophets that spoke under inspiration in ancient days."

Senator Smoot said he only took the Endowment ceremony once, but that he could not say what the ceremony was, as he did not have any definite recollection of it.

"Is there anything in the ceremony about avenging the blood of the martyrs of the Church?"

"There is not."

"How long did it take to perform this ceremony?"

"From beginning to end, about three or four hours."

"State what you are able to recall of it."

"I would much rather not."

"Why not?"

"For conscientious reasons. I made an oath with my God, not with any man, not with the President, not with the Church, but I did make a vow that I would keep these Endowment ceremonies sacred, and not reveal them to anybody, and I have kept that all my life."

"Was there any penalty attached for the violation of your obligation?"

"I prefer not to say anything further."

"Do you remember whether there was or not?"

"I prefer not to say anything further."

"Do you know why the oath of secrecy was imposed?"

"It is purely a religious ordinance—refers absolutely to a man's hereafter, and has nothing whatever to do with anything other than man's relation to his God, and I suppose that it is an ordinance in the Church, and the rule is that it be not revealed."

"Do you know how much money is paid the Church annually in tithes?"

Asked Senator Overman.

Mr. Smoot responded that the Church income was some years more than a million, and some years less. The Church, he said, has capital invested in industrial institutions, but in nearly every case a minority of the stock.

Chairman Burrows asked: "You heard the testimony of President Smith, that he is living in defiance of the laws of the land?"

"Yes, sir."

"And that he is also living in defiance of the Divine law?"

"Yes, sir, and I heard the qualifications he made."

"Has the Church proceeded against him because of his violations of the laws?"

"It has not."

"Has there been any attempt to try him because he is living in polygamous cohabitation?"

"There has not."

"Did you see him after he testified before this committee?"

The Senator said he had seen the President of the Church, both in Washington and in Utah, after his testimony, and had made no protest to him concerning his manner of living.



News of the Week

WASHINGTON.
Utah women were called in behalf of Senator Reed Smoot in the investigation by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The Army Appropriation bill was passed, after an amendment providing that retired officers above the rank of major shall not receive the full pay of their grades when serving with State militia.

Mr. Degetau, the Commissioner from Porto Rico, made his first speech in Congress.

President Roosevelt appointed Governor Brodie, of Arizona, Assistant Chief of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department, withdrawing the nomination of Major Edward S. Fowler for the same place.

John Egan, Superintendent of Indian Schools at Chamberlain, S. D., has presented the President with a Sioux war bonnet and a buckskin coat. These articles were secured by Dakota admirers of the President and sent by Agent Plinn.

The President appointed Robert Watchorn to succeed William Williams as Commissioner of Immigration at New York.

OUR ADOPTED ISLANDS.
Sorrow was felt throughout the islands for the death of the American Army officers recently killed in skirmishes with the Moros.

Lieutenant-General Chaffee, Chief of Staff, received a cable message from Major-General Corbin, commanding the Philippine division at Manila, saying he had received the following dispatch from Brigadier-General Carter, commanding the Department of the Visayas: "Lieutenant Avery, one Philippine scout and two natives were wounded in action at Dolores River. Private Austin, hospital corps, was wounded and nine constabulary were killed in action near Maslog, Samar. Lieutenant Avery and Private Austin arrived here. The officer referred to is First Lieutenant Morton L. Avery, of the Philippine scouts."

A Delegate of the Union party, of Porto Rico, which has a majority in the House of Delegates, presented a bill providing for the independence of Porto Rico under the protection of the United States. The Republican minority in the House, with the support of Unionists who did not approve the measure, killed the bill.

DOMESTIC.
S. C. T. Dodd, for thirty years general solicitor of the Standard Oil Company, resigned.

In the cases of Policeman Frank McLaughlin and Policeman Devana, of New York City, both on trial for murder, the juries found both guilty of manslaughter in the first degree.

Maurice F. Holahan, President of the Board of Public Improvements, in New York City, under Mayor Van Wyck, died.

After seven days of bitter struggle with sales the American liner New York arrived in New York Harbor from Southampton.

Gessler Rosseau confessed that he sent dynamite to the S. S. Umbria and that he tried to blow up the statue of Frederick the Great, in Washington.

Secretary McCord, of the Hecla Iron Works, charged that he was asked for a bribe of \$75,000 by a New York City employe in connection with the building of the Public Library.

President Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers, told of losses caused by coal strikes, but was hopeful regarding future contracts.

"The" Vail, "king of bunco men," died, aged seventy.

Policeman John Clare, of the New York City force, shot and mortally wounded Ira E. Kinn, a comrade, while at pistol practice. Clare was said to have been intoxicated.

Members of the Five Points Gang attacked and nearly killed an inmate of the Newsboys' Home, in New York City, the door of which they then smashed.

The United States Supreme Court granted a new trial to Senator Burton, convicted in St. Louis, Mo.

New York City's tax books instead of showing an increase of \$206,000,000 over 1904, show an actual decrease of \$785,915,000.

FOREIGN.
The resignation of the Combes Ministry was accepted by President Loubet of France.

Six persons were killed and nine seriously injured in a collision of three trains on the Midland Railway, England.

Chancellor von Buelow, in a speech in the German Reichstag, referred to the action of President Roosevelt on the regulation of trusts.

The controversy between the Cabinet and court in Belgrade has become severe. It was expected that the rigid party would succeed in controlling a new Cabinet.

Mr. George H. Boughton, Royal Academician, was found dead in his London studio, aged seventy-one.

In the fire at the Duodo Palace, a special cable dispatch from Venice said, a portrait of the Doge Francesco by Tintoretto was burned.

Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky induced the Council of Ministers to vote to consult with representatives of the zemstvos in regard to carrying out the reforms promised by the Czar, and will probably retain his portfolio for some time as a result of the victory.

Herr Hue, a Socialist member of the German Reichstag, presented the case of the striking miners, saying that wages were being forced down, while sanitary conditions were frightful.

The engagement of Signor Marconi to the Princess Giacinta Ruspoli, daughter of an hereditary Vatican dignitary, was reported in the Patria, of Rome.

President Castro left Caracas hurriedly, and the Administration at Washington, D. C., feared that force would be necessary to protect the rights of foreigners in Venezuela.